

## Department of Justice

## United States Attorney David L. Huber Western District of Kentucky

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN

PHONE: (502) 582-5911

FAX: (502) 582-5097

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007 WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

## DEFENDANT INDICTED FOR POSSESSION OF PSEUDOEPHEDRINE KNOWING IT WOULD BE USED TO MANUFACTURE METHAMPHETAMINE

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville, returned an indictment against Deborah Ann Crabtree, age 51, of 2310 Elmhurst Street, Louisville, Kentucky, on a charge of possession of pseudoephedrine with reasonable cause to believe it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

The Indictment alleges that the offense occurred between June 17, 2005, and February 21, 2006. Crabtree made purchases of pseudoephedrine at various drugstores in and around the Louisville area to be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Crabtree, assisted by others, obtained over 300 grams of pseudoephedrine for use in manufacturing methamphetamine during this time frame.

On February 21, 2006, Louisville Metro Police executed a search warrant at coconspirator Donald Belcher's residence located at 6303 Powder Horn Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, and found a methamphetamine laboratory in the basement. Belcher had all the necessary ingredients to manufacture methamphetamine in his residence and was in the process of manufacturing methamphetamine with the intention of distribution in and around Louisville. Police located approximately 2 quarts of methamphetamine oil in the last stages of the manufacturing process. This would have produced over 50 grams of methamphetamine.

Belcher pled guilty to conspiring to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, and possessing 5 grams or more of methamphetamine with the intent to sell it. Belcher also pled guilty to possessing multiple firearms, including a sawed-off shotgun, in furtherance of his drug crimes. He was sentenced on January 17, 2007, to 15 years in prison. He agreed to forfeiture to the government of \$2,885 in cash and a number of firearms.

Co-conspirator Tammy Goode pled guilty to conspiring to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, and possessing 5 grams or more of methamphetamine with the intent to sell it. She received a sentence of 3 years and 10 months.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are 20 years imprisonment and \$250,000 fine.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James H. Barr and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Louisville Metro Police Department.

Crabtree is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on May 22, 2007, at 9:15 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

\* \* \*

The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.